

June 21, 2018



The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kamala Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Denham
1730 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Garamendi
2438 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

VIA EMAIL

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Due to your tremendous efforts and dedication, not only did you draft and work to pass into law the Section 1122 Beneficial Use Pilot Program of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, but your ongoing support has resulted in the Corps of Engineers releasing its Implementation Guidance and now moving into selection of the 10 pilot projects. You have been with our San Francisco Bay Coalition every step of the way and now we are asking that you make your final push to include our Restoring San Francisco Bay's Natural Infrastructure with Dredged Sediment Proposal Project (Resilient San Francisco Bay Project) in the pilot program currently being finalized.

As you know, the California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy)'s proposal to the Corps developed with our coalition is to cost-share the beneficial use of a significant portion of the approximately 1.5 million cubic yards of material dredged annually from the Oakland Harbor, Richmond Harbor, Pinole Shoal, and Redwood City Harbor federal navigation channels. Instead of depositing the dredged material at the Deep Ocean Disposal Site or at In-Bay Disposal Sites, the Corps and the Conservancy would place it at one to four tidal wetlands restoration sites around the San Francisco Bay: Montezuma, Cullinan Ranch, Bel Marin Keys Unit V, and Eden Landing. Our proposal also includes a testing of new in-bay beneficial use sites that could potentially feed existing and restored wetlands in the future.

In San Francisco Bay, the beneficial use of dredged material at tidal wetlands restoration sites provides significant environmental, economic, and social benefits including monetary and nonmonetary benefits as Congress called for in the Section 1122 project selection criteria. Conservancy's proposal details the environmental benefits totaling 7,331 acres of restored wetlands from the four

 Bay Planning Coalition



identified sites. The economic benefits of these projects are multi-faceted, including coastal flood risk management for communities, stabilization of the shorelines, ecosystem services, carbon sequestration, and job creation. With the Resilient San Francisco Bay Project, the region is leveraging \$153.8 million of local, regional, state and non-USACE federal funding as evidence of the critical need and partnership between organizations and agencies at all levels. In terms of social benefits, these four projects provide recreational opportunities and open space in the highly urbanized Bay area, home to over 7 million people.

The Conservancy is a proven partner of the USACE and has experience in managing wetland restoration projects with beneficial use of dredged sediment. The Conservancy currently has approximately \$200 million of funding for project support along the coast of California and in the San Francisco Bay Area, with \$6 million just appropriated by the California legislature to the Conservancy specifically for beneficial use. In addition, San Francisco Bay Area voters passed Measure AA in June of 2016, which provides \$25 million per year for restoration efforts in the Bay, including projects that utilize dredged material. These non-federal funds will allow for restoration site preparation, and the Conservancy is very open to discussion of how to bring these non-federal funds to bear towards the incremental cost of transportation and placement of dredged material, to allow the federal funds to go farther.

As the Corps of Engineers and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works make their recommendations for the selection of the beneficial use pilot projects in the next month, we are asking for you to make one final request to Chief of Engineers General Semonite and Assistant Secretary of the Army James to select the Resilient San Francisco Bay Project as one of the 10 pilot projects in their final recommendations.

Thank you for your tremendous support and we stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,



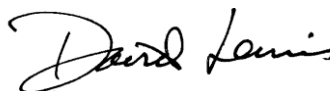
Larry Goldzband
Executive Director
Bay Conservation and
Development Commission



John A. Coleman
Chief Executive Officer
Bay Planning Coalition



Sam Schuchat
Executive Officer
California State Coastal
Conservancy



David Lewis
Executive Director
Save The Bay



George Jacob
President & CEO
The Bay Institute